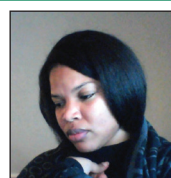


Maglev update, p.8



Twelfth Night at GAC, p.11

Corporal Christine Peters Dies from On-Duty Injuries



PHOTO BY JOELLEN SARFF

Police officers and city residents hold a vigil on Saturday, January 16, in honor of Officer Christine Peters.

The City of Greenbelt Police Department announced the death of Corporal Christine Peters. Corporal Peters died on Thursday, January 14, 2021, from injuries she sustained while on duty on Saturday, January 2.

Corporal Peters was injured while investigating a vehicle crash on Edmonston Road near Sunnyside Avenue. While Corporal Peters was on foot, she was struck by a passing vehicle. The accident remains under investigation by the U.S. Park Police.

Corporal Peters began her career in law enforcement with the University of Maryland Police Department prior to joining



PHOTO BY BEVERLY PALAU

Howard County police officers are among many from other forces paying their respects.

the Greenbelt Police Department in 1998. During her 22 years of service, she was recognized for her outstanding work and contributions to the community.

The Greenbelt Police Department expresses its deepest sympathies to Corporal Peters' family and friends on their loss, and mourns the loss of a friend and colleague.

The family requests privacy at this time. More photos, page 9.

ERHS Students Talk About New Midday Wellness Break

by Caroline Lehman

Only a week into 2021, students and staff at Eleanor Roosevelt High School (ERHS) have gotten a new Wellness Break in the middle of the school day to take a break and disconnect from all technology.

The Covid-19 pandemic cancelled in-person school in early March 2020. Junior Odalis Arias-Flores notes that early in the pandemic the transition to virtual school was chaotic due to the drastic change, but affirmed that school year 2020-2021 has a much more organized system in place. It was announced over

the summer that Prince George's County Public Schools would not be going back to in-person school in the fall.

Prior to the institution of the Wellness Break, students followed the same schedule as existed during in-person school. The school day officially begins at 8:45 a.m. and concludes at 3:20 p.m. There are eight class periods, including one for lunch. The schedule remains the same in those aspects and, to institute the break for students, five minutes was shaved off each class period for a

See ERHS, page 2

County Rethinks Vaccination Rollout, Lags in State Stats

by Cathie Meetre

Este artículo está disponible en español en nuestra página web www.greenbeltnewsreview.com.

On Saturday, January 16, Prince George's County Executive Angela Alsobrooks emailed invitations to individuals in the 1B eligibility class to register for the 1B rollout starting Monday, January 18 – as announced by Governor Larry Hogan – despite ongoing concerns about vaccine supplies. Category 1B includes individuals 75 and over as well as certain essential workers.

The initial rollout, which used

the Maryland state vaccination registration website, was already oversubscribed by noon on January 18 and left many residents confused. Applicants who used the search function were stymied, whereas those who immediately went to a specific vaccination site at least saw whether any slots were available. Those who said they had insurance also faced the hurdle of including photographs of the front and back of their insurance card.

County Revamps Process

In response to Monday's experience, a press conference

held by Alsobrooks on Tuesday morning January 19, announced a new approach by the county. The county's website does not now refer applicants to the state's site. Instead it now offers a simple pre-registration form with some minimal information about the individual applying and after accepting the submission, promises to be in touch when a slot (in line with the individual's priority) is available. To fill out the preregistration form, go to <https://covid19vaccination.princegeorgescountymd.gov/>.

See VACCINE, page 2

Some Vaccinations To Be Rescheduled

Based on its changed process for registering for vaccinations, Prince George's County is resetting all Covid-19 vaccination appointments currently scheduled after February 9 at the Sports & Learning Complex. These appointments were made on Monday morning, January 18 using the state website. The Prince George's County Health Department will send out notices to individuals who hold the affected appointments and they must fill out the pre-registration form online to reschedule their appointments. Those who have an appointment on February 9 or before should keep their scheduled appointment and will not need to fill out the pre-registration form.

Second Dose

Anyone who has an appointment for a second dose of the vaccine after February 9 will not have their appointment changed.

Read More

The announcement also contains information on the opening of other sites, the start of Phase 1C and other information and can be found at princegeorgescountymd.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/3373.

Elaine Skolnik Nicholson Dies

by Sandra A. Lange

Friends of the Greenbelt News Review were saddened to learn of the death last week, on January 15, of their colleague, long-time reporter, news editor and former board president Elaine Skolnik. Perhaps no single Greenbelt figure has been as influential in the News Review's history over more than six decades than Elaine Ruth Skolnik Nicholson. She was 95 years old.

Elaine was born on June 17, 1925, in Patterson, N.J., to Joseph and Mary Cohen. The Cohens owned a small convenience store around which Elaine, their only child, played. She married Alfred Skolnik in 1947. In 1952 the family, which now included 4-year-old Barbara and 1-year-old Rita, moved to Greenbelt. They first lived in the 45 Court of Ridge Road where several members of the News Review staff also resided. When their son Richard was born in 1957, they moved to the 2 Court of Northway.

Al's full-time job was chief of inter-program statistics at the Social Security Administration.



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

Elaine Skolnik

But his dream job was to be a journalist, Elaine once told me. She claimed that she herself had no talent for writing.

Elaine enjoyed reminiscing about how she fell in love with Greenbelt on first sight. "Oh, those tall pines and oaks, the lake, the large green areas, the playgrounds," she would exclaim. "It was such a sweet life." Al, and later Elaine, were drawn into working on the Greenbelt News

See SKOLNIK, page 6

What Goes On

Saturday, January 23
9 a.m. to noon. Electronics Recycling, Public Works Yard
Monday, January 25
8 p.m. Council Meeting
Wednesday, January 27
8 p.m. Council Worksession: Apartment Electronic Security; Improved Medicare for All

All council meetings are virtual. See the meetings calendar at greenbeltnmd.gov for agendas and information on public participation in these meetings.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT BAPTIST CHURCH

Participants gather for services under canvas at Greenbelt Baptist Church. See story, page 12.

Letters to the Editor

How Racism Operates

The recent attack on the Capitol is another wake-up call for white people to deepen our work against racism. Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance is offering a free, interactive, online series for white people who want to explore how racism operates so that we can take more effective action.

If you are interested, please complete a short survey at tinyurl.com/y4g4lola to help us select a time and schedule that works for the most people.

Cynthia Newcomer
on behalf of Greenbelt Racial Equity Alliance

10-Year News Backlog

Five years ago my housemate told me to recycle the ever growing pile of Greenbelt News Reviews as I would never read them. I took the challenge and put them in the reading room. This month I have accomplished a 2016 resolution and am caught up with the news in Greenbelt back to 2011! This is a swell paper you do, thank you.

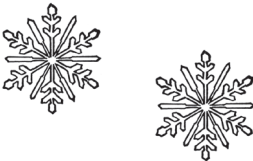
Alan Duda



Se Habla Español

Vaya a nuestra página web greenbeltnewsreview.com para ver artículos en español.

See our website, greenbeltnewsreview.com, for articles in Spanish.



Service or Garden Side?

I hear we're getting the vaccine soon!

- B. Glee

VACCINE continued from page 1

Pace of Vaccinations

Alsobrooks' email invitation stated that the county had about 25,000 residents in the 1A category, 95,000 in the 1B category and 150,000 in 1C. The county's Covid-19 dashboard update on January 18 stated that just over 12,000 residents had been given their first dose of vaccine with a small number having received their second dose – roughly half of the 1A group.

County Lags

Although the pace of Prince George's County vaccinations has picked up in the last week, it is lagging far behind other state jurisdictions, including other large urban areas. According to the state vaccination dashboard (coronavirus.maryland.gov/#Vaccine) on Tuesday, January 19, Prince George's County has vaccinated 1.37 percent of its population, the lowest ratio of any county in the state (statistics by zip code are not available for vaccinations). The next lowest is Charles County at 1.81 percent with neighboring Montgomery County closer to state norms at 3.01 percent. The counties with the highest percentage of vaccinated residents are Garrett and Talbot (6.75 and 6.58 percent, respectively – almost five times Prince George's percentage, though far fewer people). Several counties have achieved first vaccination percentages over 5 percent and Baltimore City, often considered underserved in health care, stands at 3.92 percent.

Maryland as a whole has given first vaccinations to approximately 4 percent of its residents and has administered approximately half of the doses distributed to it. Giving second doses to those who have received their first would almost completely use remaining doses, making additional vaccinations critically dependent on renewed supplies.

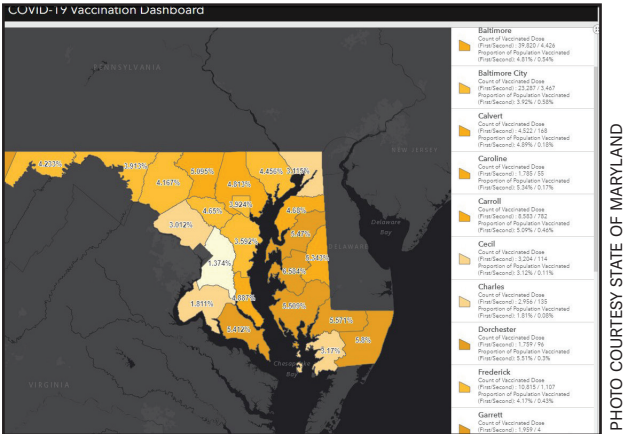
Covid-19 Statistics

Greenbelt's zip code of 20770 has had 1,480 Covid-19 cases to date out of approximately 23,000 residents, or about 6.4 percent of the city's population. Prince George's County has reported 63,592 cases in its population of approximately 906,000 which is a rate of approximately 7 percent – somewhat higher than Greenbelt's – and has experienced 1,179 deaths; this gives a county mortality rate based on reported cases of 1.9 percent. Covid-19

deaths are not reported by zip code, but if this mortality rate were applied to Greenbelt's zip code, the number of deaths would be approximately 27.

Data used in this article were drawn from the Maryland State and Prince George's County Dashboards (coronavirus.maryland.gov;

princegeorgescountymd.gov/3397/Coronavirus, click on COVID-19 to get to the dashboard) and from the Johns Hopkins University Coronavirus Resource Center (coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html), all of which are updated at least daily. These data were the latest available on Tuesday, January 19.



County-by-county vaccinaton percentages show that Prince George's County is last of all state jurisdictions. Source: State of Maryland Covid-19 Vaccination Dashboard

ERHS continued from page 1

40-minute break that occurs after fourth period.

Why the Break?

Junior Kenneth Graninger believes that the "stress of the pandemic and the struggle to find motivation" for students are contributing factors leading to the creation of the Wellness Break. Others believe that the workload, eye-strain and back pain resulting from the excess time on screens were also reasons for the new break. Caitlyn Strickland, who teaches U.S. history to freshmen students, noted that too much screen time has led her to have headaches three or four days a week.

Almost all of the teachers at ERHS were in support of the Wellness Break. Many did not even mind having five minutes taken from class. Strickland says that she uses the time to make lunch for her kids and spend time with them.

Many students are thrilled about the change. Junior Sophie Bose remarked that it is a blessing, speculating that a 45-minute lunch period alone was not enough to eat, finish up work and take a break from the screen. Although grateful, other students worry about the ability to maximize their learning in a virtual environment. Graninger worries that one negative aspect of the

break in the day is that students may not be able to learn as much as possible.

Using the Time

Students seem to be doing all sorts of activities with their time. Some catch up on sleep or pursue fun activities like watching Netflix or making art. The Wellness Break also gives students more time to make lunch. Bose recalls that before the existence of the break, she would only have time to grab a snack five minutes before class. Sophomore Sage Lancaster prefers distance learning, but was extremely relieved to have the new break; she says that it gives [her] extra time to take care of [herself], which she declares is priceless.

Walking Away

Although the intention of the break is to abandon technology for a period of time, several students believe their peers are not likely to do so. Arias-Flores notes that it is sometimes a struggle to walk away from her computer and understands why students would feel the need to work through the break. She hopes that ERHS will continue to institute breaks of this nature to help add balance to the students' lives.

Caroline Lehman is a junior at Eleanor Roosevelt High School.



Letters Policy

The News Review reserves the right not to publish any letter submitted. Letters are considered accepted when published.

All letters must include the letter writer's name, physical address and telephone number. Only the name will be published; the News Review will consider withholding the name upon request.

All letters are subject to editing for reasons of space, libel, privacy, taste, copyright and clarity.

Greenbelt News Review

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PUBLICATION DEADLINES:

- Monday 2 p.m. All Letters to the Editor (300 word limit), Articles/photos over 700 words, Display Ads (not camera ready).
- Tuesday 2 p.m. Articles/photos under 700 words, photographs not associated with a story.
- Tuesday 6 p.m. Classified Ads and camera-ready display ads.

- Email submission is available. Hardcopy submissions (delivered by respective deadline) may be mailed to the address above or left in the Co-op grocery store drop box or GNR external office door mail slot, as shown below.

- Payment must accompany ads except by prior arrangement

Greenbelt Community Center at 15 Crescent Rd.
OFFICE HOURS: Monday 2 - 4 p.m., Tuesday 2 - 4, 6 - 8 p.m.
Office is currently closed to the public. Please phone or email.
GNR external office door mail slot is located up a few stairs 25 yards left of the Community Center's east door near the municipal building.

Community Events

At the Library

Curbside service is available Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m. External book return drops are open. Items for pickup should be retrieved from the tables placed outside the lower-level entrance. Curbside service will continue during inclement weather except in dangerous conditions, such as thunderstorms, tornado warnings or ice storms. Call 301-699-3500 and ask for Public Services or use the link at pgcmls.info/contact-us for assistance.

All Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) students have access to the library's online resources with their LINK card number. Adults may register for a free virtual library card or renew an existing card at pgcmls.info. Customers may place new hold requests via the PGCMLS catalog (catalog.pgcmls.info/polaris) or Ask a Librarian Telephone Reference service at 240-455-5451. When notified that held items are available, customers may book pickup appointments through the PGCMLS website (pgcmls.info) or the Telephone Reference service. Schedule only one appointment for pickup unless there are more than 50 items to be retrieved.

Biblio Consulta: The Library's Spanish language call center is available at 240-455-5451 (press option 2) Tuesdays through Fridays, 1 to 6 p.m. and Saturdays, 1 to 5 p.m.

Attention Birders

Greenbelt's First Annual Big Year is here! Whoever records the most species of birds sighted in 2021 up until December 29 (the New Deal Café's birthday) will receive a gift certificate for dinner for two at the New Deal Café. There will be a citywide category and a backyard category. This contest will be only within the political boundaries of Greenbelt. Pictures are welcome but not required, the contest is on the honor system. What is required is a list of the birds sighted, the date and time sighted for each species and as close to an exact location as possible described.

Connect Across Greenbelt

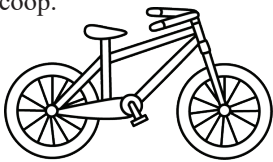
Those who would like to see Greenbelt better connected and more equitable a year from now can join a conversation and creatively deepen their support with community connections. Connecting Across Greenbelt (CAG) is a group of residents who gather virtually to build relationships across neighborhoods and to understand current challenges for all Greenbelters. A multi-cultural, multi-racial and multi-generational group of Greenbelters, CAG is working to enhance quality of life through connections and relationships. To research ways to cope in these difficult times, the group is building a Caring and Connecting Toolkit (bit.ly/CAGtoolkit) in association with leading mental health and community health leaders. Ideas are welcome.

To find out about the group's upcoming monthly meetings (this month on Thursday, January 21), email communityconnectionsgb@gmail.com.

GHI Bike Committee Seeks New Members

A new year and new opportunities to use your time, talents and energy to help the GHI community. Consider volunteering with the GHI Bicycle Committee. The GHI community is home to a number of cyclists of all ages and abilities which, in turn, makes advocacy important. The committee seeks fresh new faces and ideas to make the community more bicycle friendly for everyone.

The committee meets the third Wednesday of the month, teleconferencing, of course, in the age of Covid-19. To learn more about how to volunteer, contact John Campanile, jbelltower@yahoo.com; Diana McFadden, bowregard2003@gmail.com; Jackson Tan, jackson.tan.bs@gmail.com; or contact the GHI Board Liaison, Bruce Mangum, bmangum@ghi.coop.



Baking, Breaking Bread With Mishkan Torah

Imagine the wonderful smell of freshly baked sourdough bread wafting from the kitchen. Mishkan Torah's President, Phil Williams, can help make it a reality.

Join Mishkan Torah to cook along with Phil on Sunday, January 24 at 12:30 p.m. Watch the process, ask questions, sharpen your kitchen skills and find the perfect way to brighten up a cold January day with a warm loaf of home-baked bread. Those registering for the event will receive the Zoom link, the recipe and directions for creating the sourdough starter (takes about six days). To register, email WaysAndMeans2@MishkanTorah.org or phone 301-474-4223. Classes are open to the entire community, and there is no charge. Donations are always welcome.

Learn About Basic Composting, Recycling

On Sunday, January 24 at 7 p.m., Dr. Luisa Robles, the City of Greenbelt sustainability coordinator, will speak about basic composting at home and other options for composting in and near Greenbelt. She will also talk about some changes in recycling. This program is geared toward both experienced composters, who may want to share some experiences, and to curious beginners. Questions and suggestions from participants are welcome and encouraged.

This environmental justice Zoom series is sponsored by the Green Teams of Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ and the City of Greenbelt.

RSVP to Jane Young at gcejane@aol.com for Zoom information. To avoid problems, give your username as it will appear in Zoom or your phone number if you will be calling in.

Senator Pinsky Seeks Scholarship Applicants

State Senator Paul G. Pinsky is offering a scholarship to current high school seniors and to full-time and part-time degree-seeking undergraduate and graduate students who live in the 22nd legislative district. The application is available online at senatorpinsky.org. Complete and file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) in addition to Pinsky's scholarship application. Selection is based on academic achievement, financial need and commitment to higher education. Awards range from \$500 to \$2,000.

Awards from previous academic years will be renewed automatically as long as the student has maintained satisfactory academic progress. For further information or questions call 301-858-3155 or email paul.pinsky@senate.state.md.us. The deadline is April 1.

Drop Us a Line!

Electronically, that is.
editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com

Aquatic & Fitness Center Reopens

The Aquatic & Fitness Center re-opened the indoor swimming pool as of Monday, January 18. Appointments are required. For more information, go to greenbeltmd.gov/government/departments-con-t/recreation-parks/greenbelt-aquatic-fitness-center or call 301-474-0646 for updates and schedules.

Group Forming to Plan For Electric Vehicles

The City of Greenbelt GREEN TEAM has begun an effort, along with members of the city's Advisory Planning Board and Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability, to propose a standard and plan to develop an electric vehicle fueling infrastructure in Greenbelt. Interested residents are invited to join a virtual meeting to be held on Thursday, January 28 at 7 p.m.

Contact John Lippert at ecolivingmag@aol.com for the agenda and Zoom access. To avoid problems, give the username as it will appear in Zoom or the phone number that will be used for phoning in.

Astronomical Society Hosts Virtual Tour

On Thursday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m. the Astronomical Society of Greenbelt will present a virtual tour of Green Bank Observatory, home to seven radio telescopes, including the 100-meter dish, the world's largest steerable radio telescope. Sue Ann Heatherly will lead the facility tour and describe current and future research at Green Bank. All are welcome.

This meeting will be held virtually over Zoom. The Zoom link will be posted before the meeting on the Astronomical Society's website at greenbeltastro.org.



Coalition Celebrates Treaty Ratification



On Friday, January 22, the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which has now been ratified by 51 nation-states, will enter into effect, thereby making nuclear weapons internationally illegal. For those nations that are party to it, the treaty prohibits the development, testing, production, stockpiling, stationing, transfer, use and threat of use of nuclear weapons, as well as assistance and encouragement to the prohibited activities.

The Peace and Justice Coalition will distribute fliers in Roosevelt Center from noon to 2 p.m. on Saturday, January 23 to help spread the great news about this treaty. Come join in on Saturday in urging the United States to declare a "no first strike" policy as a next step toward the total elimination of nuclear weapons. For more information, email donna.hoffmeister@verizon.net.

Golden Age News

January birthdays will be celebrated at the January 27 meeting. The virtual bingo originally scheduled for that date will be held during a February meeting.

The club has been meeting via Zoom or by telephone call-in for several months at its regular time: 11 a.m. each Wednesday. To join the Zoom or phone list, call Rebekah Sutfin, therapeutic recreation supervisor (Senior and Inclusion Programs), at 240-542-2056 (leave a message) or email her at RSUTFIN@Greenbeltmd.gov.



Artwork at the corner of Gardenway and Ridge Road

GREENBELT ACCESS TELEVISION
Friday January 22 - Thursday January 28

TAKE OUR COMMUNITY SURVEY TODAY!
<https://www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/community-survey>

PROGRAM SCHEDULE SUBJECT TO CHANGE		CONNECT WITH GATE ON
7 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
8 am	Democracy Now!	• Repeat of Yesterday's Program
9 am	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama/Melodrama • 1947	• Black Narcissus • Deborah Kerr • Kathleen Byron • Directed by Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger
11 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
12 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
1 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Indian Queen v Judge Woods • Woodridge v Yorktown
2 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
3 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama/Melodrama • 1947	• Black Narcissus • Deborah Kerr • Kathleen Byron • Directed by Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger
5 pm	Science Bowl PGCPs	• Indian Queen v Judge Woods • Woodridge v Yorktown
SAT/SUN	Member Spotlight	• GATe Community Producers
6 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
7 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
8 pm	GATe Classic Film ★ Drama/Melodrama • 1947	• Black Narcissus • Deborah Kerr • Kathleen Byron • Directed by Michael Powell, Emeric Pressburger
10 pm	Democracy Now!	• Today's Program • Independent News
11 pm	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive
12 am	Greenbelt Newsreel	• or Selections From the GATE Archive

WATCH US on VERIZON Fios 19 or COMCAST 77
STREAMING LIVE at www.greenbeltaccessstv.org/channel-live-stream

PHOTO BY RACHEL CHANNON

Obituaries

Patricia Unger



Patricia M. "Pat" Unger

Patricia M. "Pat" Unger died January 15, 2021, at Arbor Terrace Senior Living Facility in Lanham. She was born April 16, 1937, in Washington, D.C., to Patrick and Catherine (Dunn) Dalton, and grew up in Massachusetts and Maryland. She graduated from Palmer High School in Palmer, Mass., in 1955 and received bachelor's (1959) and master's (1987) degrees from the University of Maryland, College Park. She worked as a correctional educator for Prince George's County and the State of Maryland.

Pat married John F. Unger on August 29, 1959, and lived in Greenbelt from 1962 to 2015 and raised a family there. She was active in many groups and causes in the city, county and state, including the Greenbelt Nursery School, Fair Housing in Prince George's County, the Eleanor and Franklin Roosevelt Democratic Club, GIVES (Greenbelt Intergenerational Volunteer Exchange Service) and the United Democratic Women's Clubs. She was a life-long Washington Football Team fan and ardent supporter of University of Maryland sports teams.

Pat is survived by son Patrick (Jan) of Glen Burnie; daughters Marie (Jeff Whiting) of Greenbelt, Martha Grace (Russ) of Cypress, Calif., and Elizabeth of Bowie; granddaughter Molly Patricia Grace of Cypress; brothers Jim Dalton (Kathy) of Amissville, Va., Dan Dalton (Celeste) of Greencastle, Pa., and Bill Dalton (Laurie Rose) of Chicago; sister Ann Adams of Ocala, Fla.; sister-in-law Lois Camacho of Bloomington, Ind.; and many nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. The family plans to celebrate her life at a proper Irish wake eventually.

Steve Hesnan

Laurel Hill Road friends and neighbors of Steve Hesnan are sad to announce his death on December 31, 2020. Steve moved to Greenbelt over 20 years ago and was known for his beautiful garden and magnificent seasonal decorations. Steve was a landscaper, loved being outdoors and helped all of 11 Court while he was outside. In the fall, he was often out removing and bagging leaves from the entire parking area. After a large snowstorm, he would clear snow from the court and around neighbors' cars with his power snowblower.

Steve worked in the village of Drummond (Montgomery County) for many years. He did beautiful plantings at the entrance and maintained the gardens of individual homes. He also cared for residents' dogs. These kind and respectful clients are planning a memorial service for him in the spring.

He loved Old Greenbelt and everything at the Roosevelt Center. He knew many at the Co-op grocery store. He made friends with the cashiers as well as the pharmacist. He wanted to retire in Green Ridge House so he could stay in Greenbelt as long as possible.

In Memoriam

Jerry Gough

I saw the death notice for Jerry Gough in the Washington Post. [See also News Review, January 14, 2021.] He and his wife Kathy were good friends of my wife, Bernie McGee.

Jerry served on the Greenbelt City Council and was active in the liberal Democrat group of the '60s and '70s. He served for many years as government relations officer for WMATA, in which position he kept in touch with me and the city council. Bernie and I kept in touch with Jerry and Kathy after their and our retirements. They came to our wedding in 1998 and we joined other Greenbelters in mourning Kathy's death in 2009.

Jerry was first appointed to the council in June, 1967, following the resignation of David Champion. At that time, he was chair of the city Community Relations Advisory Board. In September, he was elected to the council for a two-year term. As he placed second in the voting, the council elected him mayor pro tem. In January, 1969, he resigned from the council as he had taken a job with WMATA.

The 50th Anniversary of Greenbelt book notes some things about Jerry. He was the only councilmember to vote for a resolution limiting gun registration after an angry crowd of opponents descended upon council. Later, a referendum on gun control was favored by Greenbelt residents by a two-to-one vote.

Jerry joined Francis White in the unsuccessful effort to establish a polling place in Springhill Lake. Council changed its mind after 500 Springhill Lake residents registered in a special registration. In the next election, Joel Katz, a Springhill Lake resident, was elected to the council and White became mayor, beating out Ed Smith who had been mayor.

Then in 1985, Jerry chaired a citizen committee to have Green-

belt declared an All-American City. Selected as a finalist, the committee went to Cincinnati to unsuccessfully plead the city's case for selection.

Jerry first lived in Springhill Lake but resided in Boxwood for most of the time he lived in Greenbelt.

I remember Jerry as a great storyteller. There was an evening gathering of city officials and others at which Jerry exchanged humorous, mostly Irish, stories with Maryland Delegate Gerry Devlin and had everyone else in stitches.

Occasionally Jerry appeared in films, commercials and television shows. He also had voice roles. If you search for him on the internet, it lists several of the movies he acted in: Broadcast News, Guarding Tess and Homicide: Life on the Street. I remember one of the last was a big-name film in which he and Kathy walked down a Washington, D.C., street with their backs to the camera in one scene.

- Jim Giese



We grieve for the death of Elaine Skolnik, who was our Greenbelt News Review president, news editor (AKA arm-twister in chief – if you were in her vicinity, she'd assign you a story), intrepid reporter and community glue for decades.

We are greatly saddened by the death of Greenbelt Police Department Corporal Chris Peters who lost her life protecting others.

Condolences to neighbors on Laurel Hill Road and friends throughout Greenbelt on the loss of Steve Hesnan.

Sympathy also to the friends and family of Pat Unger, who died on January 15. She was an active Greenbelter for more than 50 years.

Share your accomplishments, milestones and news in the Our Neighbors column. Send details of your news items to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.

Obituaries

The News Review publishes obituaries of Greenbelt residents, past or present.

You write it or we will if you prefer. We try to include information about participation in various activities and organizations, where the person lived and something about the family. A photograph and service information should be included. There is no charge.

Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church

40 Ridge Road, Greenbelt

Open hearts, Open minds, Open doors

Find us on [facebook.com/mowattumc](https://www.facebook.com/mowattumc)

301-474-9410

Rev. Fay Lundin, Pastor

In person worship services cancelled for now.
Live streaming on our Facebook page @mowattumc.
10 a.m. Sunday mornings

Paint Branch Unitarian Universalist Church

3215 Powder Mill Road, Adelphi

Phone: 301-937-3666 www.pbuuc.org

Welcomes you to our open, nurturing community

January 24 10 a.m.

"The Structure of Forgiveness"

Rev. Russ Savage; with Worship Associate Clark Ritz

Forgiveness is not a simple social act, but a complex psychological and spiritual process with a definite structure and necessary steps. Let us examine this structure in light of our own personal needs to forgive and be forgiven, and in light of the current world situation. ONLINE ONLY. Streaming information at <http://pbuuc.org/news/>

"When we find truth, constancy, fidelity, and love, we are happy; but if we meet with lying, faithlessness, and deceit, we are miserable."
– 'Abdu'l-Bahá



Greenbelt Bahá'í Community

www.greenbeltbahais.org

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Rabbi Saul Oresky, Cantor Phil Greenfield

An unpretentious, historic, welcoming, liberal, egalitarian synagogue that respects tradition and becomes your extended family in the 21st century.

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Saturday morning services at 10:00am

All services and activities are currently virtual

For further information, call (301) 474-4223 www.mishkantorah.org

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Greenbelt Community Church



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Rev. Curt DeMars-Johnson

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Sunday at 10:15

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Left Their Nets
Following Jesus

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With joy, we return to the public celebration of Mass. Attendance is limited to 100 persons per Mass, all (3 and up) must wear masks. All details available on our website. Mon-Fri 7:15am, Sat 9am; Sat vigil 5pm; Sun 8am, 9:30am, 11am
Confessions Saturday 3pm - 4pm

135 Crescent Rd.

www.sthughofgrenoble.org



City Information & Events

The strength of Greenbelt is diverse people living together in a spirit of cooperation. We celebrate all people. By sharing together all are enriched. We strive to be a respectful, welcoming community that is open, accessible, safe and fair.

GREENBELT CITY COUNCIL- REGULAR MEETING
Monday, January 25, 2021 8:00 p.m.

ORGANIZATION
Call to Order
Roll Call
Meditation and Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag
Consent Agenda – Approval of Staff Recommendations(Items on the Consent Agenda [marked by *] will be approved as recommended by staff, subject to removal from the Consent Agenda by Council.)
Approval of Agenda and Additions

COMMUNICATIONS
Presentations
- **Black History Proclamation**
Petitions and Requests
(Petitions received at the meeting will not be acted upon by the City Council at this meeting unless Council waives its Standing Rules.)
Minutes of Council Meetings
Administrative Reports
Committee Reports
- Community Relations Advisory Board Report 2021-1
(Council Referral on Racial Equity Legislation)

LEGISLATION
OTHER BUSINESS
- Greenbelt West Advisory Committee
- Recognition Group- Greenbelt Municipal Swim Team
- Advisory Committee on Education (ACE) - Report #21-01
- ACE Grant Proposals – 2021
- Community Relations Advisory Board - Communication to City Council
- Acceptance of Greenbelt Station Parkway
- State Legislation
- Memorial for Police Officers
- Council Activities
- Council Reports
- * Appointment to Advisory Board
- * Reappointments to Advisory Boards

MEETINGS-Scheduling of Future Meetings
COUNCIL MEETING WILL BE VIRTUAL Cablecast on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996 and www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv
Resident participation: Information will be posted on Meetings Calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov
In advance the hearing impaired are advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov

VIRTUAL MEETINGS FOR JANUARY 25-29

Saturday, January 23 at 8:00 am, **COUNCIL GOALS AND OBJECTIVES SESSION**

Monday, January 25, **REGULAR CITY COUNCIL MEETING**, Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

Tuesday, January 26 at 7:00pm, **ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION** On the Agenda: Principals Meeting, Grants up-date and Discussion: Meeting with club facilitators 2/23

Tuesday, January 26 at 7:30pm, **GREEN ACES** On the Agenda: Updates from Sustainability Framework / Green Team Circles. and events

Wednesday, January 27 at 8:00pm, **COUNCIL WORK SESSION re: Apartment Electronic Security Ordinance/Improved Medicare for All (tentative)** Virtual meeting will be shown on Verizon 21, Comcast 71 and 996, and Streaming at www.greenbeltmd.gov/municipaltv

Thursday, January 28 at 7:00pm, **GREEN TEAM MEETING: ELECTRONIC VEHICLE INFRASTRUCTURE IN GREENBELT** On the Agenda: Summary review of current EV infrastructure (current and planned) in Greenbelt, Discussion: Possible items to research/pursue, and next steps

Thursday, January 28 at 7:00pm,**FOREST PRESERVE ADVISORY BOARD** On the Agenda: Maglev update, Box or Google doc, Forest Preserve brochure review, Garden Club boundaries in preparation for Work Session with City Council in March

Thursday, January 28 at 7:30pm, **COMMUNITY RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD (CRAB)**. On the Agenda: Approval of Minutes, Community Feedback, Planning for Future Forums, and Reports from CRAB

Thursday, January 28 at 7:30pm, **FOUR CITIES MEETING College Park**. In advance, the hearing impaired is advised to use MD RELAY at 711 to submit your questions/comments or contact the City Clerk at (301) 474-8000 or email banderson@greenbeltmd.gov.
This schedule is subject to change. For confirmation that a meeting is being held call 301-474-8000. For information on public participation for the virtual meetings above, visit the meetings calendar at www.greenbeltmd.gov.

For city information, meetings, events, services and more visit www.greenbeltmd.gov
Follow @cityofgreenbelt on Facebook and Twitter

ELECTRONICS, STYROFOAM, AND PAINT

RECYCLING

Saturday, January 23, 2021
Public Works Yard, 555 Crescent Road
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Recycle Your Old Computers and Other Electronics!

Accepted items include: CPUs, monitors, key-boards, mice, printers, laptops, recording equipment, speakers, scanners, surge protectors, cameras, telephones, radios, DVD players, VCRs, fax machines, wires and power cords. Expanded polystyrene (block "Styrofoam" #6). NO Styro-foam cups, egg cartons or food trays.
SORRY, ALKALINE BATTERIES AND TUBE TVs ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED.
PLEASE CALL IN ADVANCE IF YOU HAVE ITEMS OVER 50 LBS.

Yuck Old Paint – PAINT RECYCLING!

Cost—\$5 per container. DO NOT mix paint in other containers. In order for paint to be properly used, the contents on the inside need to match the label on the outside. If you are unable to attend the event, you may hire this service directly to come to your home for an additional \$50 service fee. Yuck Old Paint, LLC

VACANCIES ON BOARDS & COMMITTEES

Volunteer to serve on City Council Advisory Groups. There are currently vacancies on:

- Arts Advisory Board
- Board of Elections
- Community Relations Advisory Board
- Senior Citizens Advisory Committee
- SCMAGLEV Opposition Task Force
- Youth Advisory Committee

For more information call 301- 474-8000

BLACK history MONTH

Visit greenbeltmd.gov/recreation for complete descriptive information and event registration

GREENBELT CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Regina’s Black Artifacts Popup Museum
Saturday, February 6; 2:00pm–4:00pm
Greenbelt Community Center, 15 Crescent Road
Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/38SfgjX>
Enjoy this journey through time with Historically Black Figures, Black Inventions, Black Artifacts, Now/Then Collectibles and much more.

An Artful Afternoon
Sunday, February 7; 3:00pm; Virtual
Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/2JRZGnY>
3:00 pm: Puppetry Showcase: Enjoy a selection of filmed performances premiering on YouTube.
Plus...enjoy a craft-at-home workshop inspired by the rich history of African American quilting traditions.

African Drummers Master Class
Saturday, February 13; 3:00pm-4:00pm
Virtual Instructor: Michael Kweku
Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/35H2uw5>
Michael Kweku is an artist and craftsman from Accra, Ghana who has spent the last 10 years of his life studying traditional West African drumming, building traditional drums, and working with impoverished children in the Arts Center.

Poetry Slam - Prince George’s County Public School Students
Sunday, February 14; 2:00-3:00pm; Virtual
Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/38JSzYv>
Tune-in to local Prince Georges County artists ages 13 through 19 as practitioners of the spoken word arts.

Enslaved Life and Labor on Maryland Plantations
Saturday, February 20; 2:00pm-3:00pm
Virtual Presenter: Dr. Leigh Ryan
Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/3oMHTO6>
What was life like for those enslaved on a Maryland plantation? Where did they live? What kinds of work did they do? How did they resist? This overview will offer some answers to these and other questions.

Female RE-Enactors of Distinction (FREED)
Sunday, February 21; 2:00pm-3:00pm; Virtual
Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/38JRX5a>
The Female RE-Enactors of Distinction is a group of ladies who desire to teach American history that perhaps has been forgotten or overlooked. Please join us in promoting the accomplishments of the African American Civil War Soldiers and the women who supported their fight for freedom.

Desegregating Greenbelt: Family Histories of the Community’s First Black Residents
Thursday, February 25; 7:00pm
Link will be made available at www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation
Did you know that Greenbelt began as a segregated community? Despite the fact that it was built by both Black and white relief workers, only white families would be accepted as residents and it would remain segregated for several decades after its founding in 1937. Join the Greenbelt Museum to learn about the community’s first residents of color.

Belly Dancers of Color Collective Class
Saturday, February 27; 3:00pm-4:00pm
Virtual Instructors: Leila Nelson and Adina Gittens-Smith
Register for this event at <https://bit.ly/3ilzxec>
Belly Dancers of Color Collective was formed in 2015. This class will blend the traditional belly dance form with African, Caribbean dance styles.

Visit www.greenbeltmd.gov/recreation for complete descriptions, schedule of events and to register.

SKOLNIK continued from page 1

Review by their 45 Court neighbors. Al focused on the “hard news,” writing about Greenbelt Homes Inc. and the city council. Elaine volunteered to help write the Our Neighbors column. Not long after she volunteered for Our Neighbors, she saw a moving van pull up to her court. The main columnist for Our Neighbors was departing, and Elaine nervously became “It.”

In her first solo column she offered condolences naming the wrong person dying. She anguished over her mistake when that family was sent flowers. Despite her embarrassment, she continued to write and to organize fund drives for the ever-impooverished newspaper. One of her favorite stories from the early days happened one evening when she and two other staffers were ready to walk home after a long night of working on the paper. It was 2 a.m. and snowing outside so they called the police and requested a ride home. The policeman who arrived said sternly, “Ladies, there are only two kinds of people out on a night like this – robbers and victims.” He then locked them in his patrol car and drove them home.

Another favorite story was the time the newspaper copy was on its way to the print shop in Hyattsville, encased in a large envelope and strapped onto the back of a motorcycle. It fell off somewhere along Kenilworth Avenue and was lost. Staff rushed to the office, then located in the basement of 15 Parkway, and rummaged through trash cans to reconstruct the paper – and maintain their mantra of never missing an issue and being the longest running volunteer newspaper in the country.

In 1965 the newspaper was sued for \$2,000,000. As Elaine would recall years later, she was stirring chocolate pudding in the kitchen one afternoon when there was a knock on the door. When she answered, a man in a uniform asked for Al in order



Richard Skolnik (son), Elaine Skolnik, Steve Crowley (son-in-law) and Rita Crowley (daughter) gather for a family photo during a luncheon in Elaine's honor in 2015.

to deliver an official looking package. Elaine said that Al was at work but she could take the package. He gave it to her. When she opened it, she was stunned to discover that the News Review, as well as Alfred E. Skolnik as the newspaper’s president, were being sued for libel by a prominent local developer, Charles Bresler. Bresler charged that the paper had published defamatory remarks made by citizens at public sessions of the city council.

Thus began a four-year legal battle where the lower courts awarded Bresler \$17,500 in damages. That verdict was upheld in the Court of Appeals. With the assistance of a lawyer, Roger Clark, who provided pro bono representation through the Washington Post, the Skolniks were eventually vindicated in 1970 by the U.S. Supreme Court in a landmark unanimous Freedom of the Press decision.

For Al and Elaine, the legal battle impacted their private lives. They spent much of their time assisting the lawyers in providing documents for their briefs, raising the money needed to cover court costs in case they lost again. The anguish was long-lasting.

In 1974, Al and Elaine were named Outstanding Citizens of

Greenbelt by the Greenbelt Labor Day Festival. In addition to her work on the newspaper, Elaine served on the city Park and Recreation Advisory Board, was president of the Co-op Nursery School and vice president of the Co-op kindergarten. She was a key figure in the movement to preserve Greenbelt as a planned community during the 1970s and early 1980s when the city endured many development issues. She also worked – behind the scenes – for various candidates for city council and GHI. She organized courts with court captains to ensure that everyone voted. She spent hours on the phone every day. Her phone number was 474-6060 and she became known as Agent 60.

In 1977, her world collapsed when Al suddenly died of a heart attack. Al had been her soul mate, her supporter, her constant companion. She relied on him to critique her stories as she advanced from the Our Neighbors column to investigative reporter on zoning and development issues. But she had great reserves of strength and perseverance. She reluctantly became the president of the News Review, serving in

See SKOLNIK, page 7

In Memoriam

Remembering Elaine Skolnik

Elaine was a petite woman with a pretty face; a stay-at-home mom of three children. Elaine didn’t drive – she didn’t need to. She had a telephone: 474-6060 – the easiest number in town to remember. She spent hours each day by the phone: organizing to raise funds in the late ’50s to keep the News Review afloat; organizing GHI court or neighborhood friends throughout the town to hustle liberal votes or better candidates for city or GHI elections. She was a super sleuth reporter interviewing developers, digging into the details of their projects and then writing about them in the newspaper, a challenging task she was proud of.

Another job Elaine really enjoyed, she once told me, was to read everything her husband Al wrote for the paper – council and GHI meetings or editorials. If she could understand what he

had written, then readers of the newspaper could also.

She managed the staff members and friends who helped search for needed information for the 1965 libel suit, again organized the town to provide the funds needed and for many years maintained all the important papers related to the lawsuit.

Elaine took over as president of the newspaper after Al’s untimely death in 1977. She covered city council, continued her investigative reporting and provided guidance over what was or wasn’t appropriate for the newspaper to report on.

Elaine was devoted to the Greenbelt News Review for most of her adult life. Al and Elaine wanted the paper to be a force for good in the community. It should be kept on an even keel, be fair minded and responsible.

– Mary Lou Williamson

In Memoriam: Elaine Skolnik

I am sorry to hear of the death of Elaine Skolnik. She had a long and useful life and I was proud to call her a friend after the 28 years of her being my nicest adversary in her reporting of city hall for the News Review.

When she was a reporter, she was thorough, tenacious and accurate. She was not out to expose as so many ambitious reporters are but wanted to learn all of the story and fairly report it. Having a newspaper inform the public on the activities of the city government in such a way was a great help to me and everyone else in the city govern-

ment as well as to Greenbelt’s residents. The fact that she did this for so many years as a volunteer, devoting hours each week to getting the facts, writing them up and making sure the paper got published made her life a remarkable contribution. This is even more remarkable, considering that the work she and Al Skolnik did to produce the paper resulted in their being unjustifiably personally sued, and yet even after being found guilty by lower courts, the pair continued to do their volunteer work for the paper without hesitation.

– Jim Giese



Del. Alonzo T. Washington leads PGC Police Reform Work Group

In July 2020, County Executive Angela Alsobrooks created the Prince George’s County Police Reform Work Group and appointed Maryland State Delegate Alonzo T. Washington to serve as co-chair.

The Work Group was tasked with making recommendations to improve nearly every aspect of policing for our County law enforcement. Over the past six months, the group met every week to develop comprehensive, robust, and progressive recommendations to re-imagine policing and public safety in Prince George’s County.

The Work Group delivered over 100 recommendations on key issues such as use of force, officer recruitment, racial equity, community engagement, and much more. On December 4th, the Work Group sent its final report to the County Executive. To read the final report, you can visit www.AlonzoWashington.com, or scan the QR code below.

To keep up with Delegate Washington and his work on police reform, education, affordable housing, and other issues, visit his website or send him an email at alonzo@alonzowashington.com. He can also be found on Twitter and Instagram @DelegateATW, or on Facebook at facebook.com/DelegateWashington.

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Use your phone camera to scan this code:



Tributes Over The Years

The following are tributes, compiled by Sandra Lange, that were paid to Elaine Skolnik over the years for her work on the News Review and for other community organizations.

Elaine has always been the best researcher on the News Review staff. She has an extraordinary instinct for ferreting out what is truly important.

- the late Virginia Beauchamp, former News Review editor

She has been a teacher to scores of young people, budding journalists for whom she has devoted hours and hours of her time.

- Sandra Lange, staff writer

When Elaine was suddenly widowed in 1977, she summoned all her courage, and converted her energies to keeping the Greenbelt News Review on its course. The late Toni Bram, former mayor, said, ... we have admired the persistent, patient commitment to this community of our friend Elaine Skolnik.

- Gil Weidenfeld, former mayor, and Micki Weidenfeld

Elaine's enthusiasm and total dedication to the Greenbelt News Review and this community have been an inspiration to us.

- Dea and Bob Zugby

When it comes to the activities of Greenbelt developers, she is the premier investigative reporter. She digs, checks, double checks, and keeps extensive records.

- James K. Giese, former city manager

It has been a great pleasure to know her professionally. She is the only person I know that can make detailed discussion of sewage seem like fun.

- George Brugger, land use attorney

[Al and Elaine Skolnik's] articles maintained a journalistic standard for accuracy and style that was on a par with the major newspapers.

- the late Katherine Keene, friend and former GHI board member

[Elaine] is a paragon of virtue and acumen, equally capable of helping out or taking over, willing to work all hours, day and night and above all, totally committed to the newspaper and its sacred mission of keeping the people of Greenbelt informed.

- the late Harry Zubkoff, former editor

After Al's death she took hold of the rudder and never let go. Elaine had the same instincts, the same principles, understood what was important and what to disregard ... I called her the brains of the News Review.

- Editor Emerita Mary Lou Williamson



SKOLNIK continued from page 6



PHOTO BY ERIC ZHANG

Elaine poses with Greenbelt News Review staff at a luncheon held in her honor in 2015. Back row from left, Mary Lou Williamson, James Giese, Mary Moien, Barry Moien; front row from left, Judy Bell, Elaine Skolnik, Virginia Beauchamp

that capacity for nine years. She became the guru on sewage treatment plants when the Greenbriar condominiums were being built during a sewer moratorium from 1970 to 1977. Lawyers and developers who were generally hostile to the press, often commented on her fairness, sensitivity and caring. She prided herself in her unbiased and factual reporting.

Former editor Harry Zubkoff once wrote "the News Review is the major unifying element within the city, the force which has done more than any other single civic activity to make a city out of a housing project." Today many residents of Greenbelt are unfamiliar with Elaine's achievements, and those of her late husband, Al. But, without their leadership, the News Review might not have survived and maintained its decades-long influence.

Elaine organized her final fundraising activity in 1985 seeking volunteers, more advertising and donations as the News Review was once again in dire financial straits. A committee soon raised over \$10,000; 79 people volunteered to help. In 1986, the paper was in better financial shape, and new blood was seemingly ready to step up; it was

time for her to step down.

She had moved from Greenbelt several years earlier and married Victor Nicholson in 1985. Vic would drive her to Greenbelt every Tuesday afternoon so she could carry on her activities as news editor. She also mentored many University of Maryland journalism students who volunteered for the newspaper.

Elaine and Vic resided in Leisure World in Silver Spring where she enjoyed social activities that included choral singing and dancing. Her children and grandchildren lived nearby, and she always had time for them. In 2005, Vic died and Elaine was once again alone. As the years went by, she began to suffer from dementia and entered a nursing facility where she died on January 15, 2021. She is survived by her daughters Barbara Goldman and Rita Skolnik (Steve Crowley), her son Richard (Robyn) Skolnik; grandchildren Amy Goldman, Jennifer and Alan Skolnik and Kenny and Corey Crowley.

A private service and burial took place on January 17. Donations in Elaine's memory may be made to an Alzheimer's organization.

Sunrise, Sunset



PHOTO BY LOIS ROSADO

Sunrise at the Lake

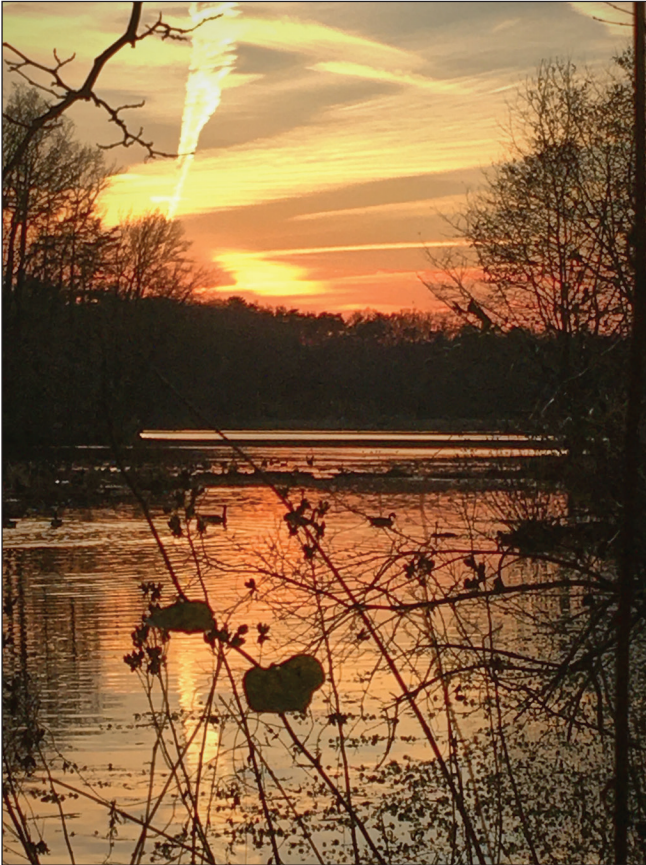


PHOTO BY BARBARA BJANES

Sunset at the Lake



Greenbelt

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Meatless Monday Dinner - Features Favorites from
Macro Vegetarian and Dodah's Kitchen
Wednesday Dinner - Roast Chicken Family Deal
Fish Friday Dinner - Healthy Fish Fillet

Pre-order Dinner 301-474-0522 by 1 pm. Pick-up Dinner between 4-7 pm.

Maglev DEIS Released, Details Potential Impacts on Preserve

by Donna Hoffmeister

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Baltimore-Washington Superconducting Maglev Project was released for public review on January 15 (bwmaglev.info/index.php/project-documents/deis). The DEIS describes six alternatives for each of the two alignments: east (J) and west (J1) of the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (BWP). The State Historic Preservation Office, the National Park Service and the Department of the Interior are the agencies responsible for Greenbelt with no explicit coordination with city officials (Appendix F, p. 82).

J1 Alignment

Any of the six alternatives on the western side of the Parkway (J1-01 through J1-06) would eliminate “most of the natural habitat and buffer between the residential areas and the BWP” (Executive Summary, p. 17). No matter which Trainset Maintenance Facility (TMF) is chosen – MD 198, the old airfield on the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC) or BARC West – the cut and cover portal must be in the Forest Preserve south of BARC property to accommodate the grade requirements for the TMF ramps (Appendix F, p. 39). The Forest Preserve would lose about 40 acres. It would take 75 to 100 years to recover the loss of trees on about six acres due to temporary tunnel construction. Building the SCMaglev “would substantially diminish the value of wildlife habitat” in the Greenbelt Forest Preserve (Appendix F, p. 37). The DEIS states it would be difficult to mitigate this loss.

Appendix Details

The substantive parts of the document that describe the current situation, the impact of the train and potential mitigation are found in the appendices. Appendix D,7, Natural Environmental Technical Report, for instance, lists such items as Forest Interior Dwelling [bird] Species (FIDS), soil evaluations, biodiversity tables and maps of wetlands and waterways. Appendix F deals with Section 4(f) of the U.S. Department of Transportation Act of 1966. Of relevance to Greenbelt is the following: “Section 4(f) prohibits a Federal Agency from approving a project that would result in the use of significant parks, recreation areas, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, or historic sites if there is a feasible and prudent alternative to the use of the resource” (Executive Summary, p. 26). The Forest Preserve is protected by Section 4(f) because it is a publicly owned park for recreational purposes. The Preserve is associated with the Greenbelt Historic District, which was listed as a National Historic Landmark in 1997, because it is the green belt that surrounds the city center, which “cannot be moved elsewhere” (Ch. 4, pp. 7-8). The DEIS asserts that one could hike and view wildlife elsewhere “but the Observatory and the location of the Preserve are unique features of the greenbelt” (Appendix F, p. 36). Further, the lighting associated with the maglev would impede the operation of the astronomical observatory.

Location, Area Details

The document is specific about

Figure ES1.3-1: Project Study Area

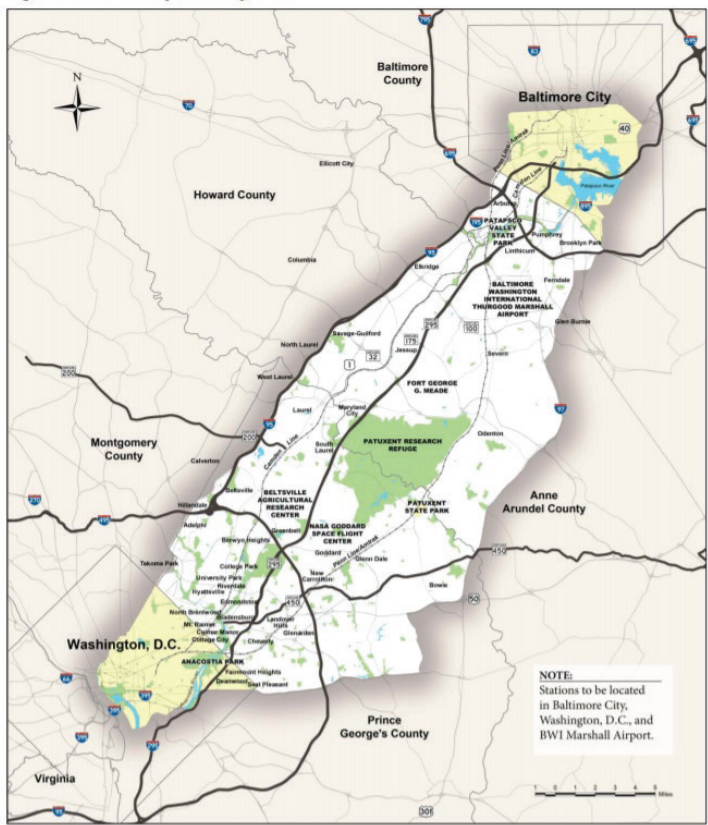


PHOTO COURTESY THE DEIS

Graphic of the impact area study

what would happen in the Forest Preserve per se (see Appendix F, pp. 36-39). The transition from tunnel to viaduct into an open cut portal occurs 300 feet north of the Preserve boundary. The portal traverses 4,800 feet in a northeasterly direction until it enters BARC property. The portal would take up about 9.41 acres, storm-water management on either side of the portal would take up about 28.16 acres, the maglev systems on the eastern side of the portal would take up about 0.98 acre, and the right of way for the viaduct consumes 1.11 acres. These figures vary somewhat among alternatives J1-01 through J1-06. Ramps to the TMF on the BARC West site would start approximately 1,650 feet south of the Forest Preserve/BARC boundary.

Some items are surprising. Forty-one percent of all comments submitted by 2017 to the Project website expressed direct opposition to the maglev project and not just to specific alignments (Ch. 5, p. 17). The Baltimore-Washington Rapid Rail, the private project sponsor, prefers Alignment J-03, and Northeast Maglev, its parent company, prefers alignments to the east of the B-W Parkway. The project will dispose of more than 23 million cubic yards of soil. The cost is now pegged at up to \$16.8 billion.

Both alignments negatively impact Beaverdam Creek and its tributaries as well as the environmentally sensitive areas of Greenbelt’s neighbors to the north: BARC and the Patuxent Research Refuge. When all is said and done, the “no-build” option remains the preferred out-

come for city officials.

Public Comment

The public comment period on the DEIS starts January 22 and extends 90 days to April 22, 2021.

Comments on the DEIS can be submitted by email to info@bwmaglev.info, or through the online comment form at bwmaglev.info.

CPAE Offers Online Creative Classes

College Park Arts Exchange (CPAE), a local arts nonprofit, is providing a variety of free online classes. Draw Like, taught by Racquel Keller, encourages participants to copy great paintings using the art materials they have on hand. Explore Creative Writing with Melissa Sites, a Greenbelt resident and News Review reporter, encourages writing as self-expression during this trying time. Dance classes, including Soul Line Dancing with Karen Stewart, Introduction to Tap with Elizabeth Gardner and Goddess Dancing with Samantha Fitschen (there is a small fee for this class), allow dancers of all ages and ability levels to move their bodies and have fun from the comfort of home. Book Club features different non-fiction books by women writers every month. In addition to these regular classes, is Felting with Ingrid Hass on Saturday, February 20 at 1 p.m. by Zoom (with a suggested donation to cover supplies). See the online calendar at cpae.org for more details, email info@cpae.org or follow CPAE on Facebook and Twitter.

Jupiter – Saturn Conjunction: Planets Ready for Close-Up

by Gary Fleming



The conjunction of Saturn and Jupiter can be seen in the photo at left. The elliptical shape of Saturn (top right) results from seeing both the rings and the planet.

The image at right shows the four Galilean moons of Jupiter.



- Photos by Conrad Terrill

Two events occurred in Greenbelt on Monday, December 21. One was predictable and the other was a surprise. The predictable event was the conjunction of Jupiter and Saturn visible in the southwestern sky shortly after sunset. The somewhat surprising event was the relatively large number of people who spontaneously arrived at the City of Greenbelt Observatory, all of whom were wearing masks and practicing social distancing.

Jupiter and Saturn are the two largest planets in the solar system and are often very bright and visible. A conjunction of two planets occurs when the planets appear to be close to one another in the sky. This is a bit of an illusion; the planets are still separated by hundreds of millions of miles and cannot possibly collide.

Viewing Jupiter and Saturn on the days leading to the conjunction showed the two planets drawing closer together as the days progressed. Clouds prevented observations for two or three days before the conjunction. Only Jupiter was visible to most observers on the evening of the 21st; where did Saturn go? It was there, but appeared very close to the much brighter Jupiter; only a few people with superior vision would have been able to see both planets.

However, Saturn and Jupiter were both visible with the aid of binoculars or a telescope. A few amateurs had set up telescopes on the hill by the observatory and several people parked by the ballfield and walked up the hill to ask if they could look. Now, a wonderful characteristic of most amateur astronomers with a telescope is that they love to show anyone nice enough to ask what they are looking at, why they are looking at it, and as many details

about the view, as well as the telescope, as the person asking wishes to hear.

The accompanying two images were taken by Conrad Terrill, manager of the Greenbelt Observatory. The images have different exposures, 10 milliseconds for the left image and 20 milliseconds for the right image, and show different details. In each image Jupiter is on the left while ringed Saturn appears on the right. The left image shows greater detail of Saturn’s rings while the right image shows the four largest of Jupiter’s moons, the ones discovered by Galileo and recognized by him as satellites of Jupiter in 1610. The images were not taken with the large city telescope, but with a portable telescope dedicated to imaging rather than direct observation. This science has evolved considerably since the 1960s, passing from film photography to electronic imaging, riding the wave of ever smaller, more sensitive and more affordable hardware.

Conjunctions of Jupiter and Saturn occur about once every 20 years; the visual proximity of two planets witnessed this year is extremely rare. The last two Jupiter-Saturn conjunctions comparable with ours occurred roughly 400 and 800 years ago. These are truly once-in-a-lifetime occurrences, if we are so lucky.

Unfortunately, the weather was fickle and the clouds rapidly obscured the viewing. Even so, the two planets would have set soon after. Three amateur astronomers with telescopes returned to the hill the next evening when the weather was better. A few others came for the viewings. Saturn was once again visible to the naked eye and the planetary pair still made quite a show in the telescopes.

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Police Blotter

Based on information released by the Greenbelt Police Department, www.greenbeltmd.gov/police
Dates and times are those when police were first contacted about incidents.

Robbery

January 7, 2 p.m., 7812 Hanover Parkway. A tow truck driver was flagged down by a man at an undisclosed location who said he needed his car towed. The driver gave the man a ride to the area near 7812 Hanover Parkway, at which time the man produced a handgun and announced a robbery. He took money and fled on foot. He is described as Black, about 5' 8" tall, 160 pounds with bushy hair and tattoos on his face, wearing dark-colored clothing and black New Balance sneakers.

January 11, 9:57 p.m., 9100 Springhill Lane. A food delivery person attempted to deliver an order but there was no response at the door. Five men then approached and assaulted him and took cash, his cell phone and the food order before they fled on foot. The delivery person declined treatment for minor injuries.

Cutting

January 11, 10:58 a.m., 6000 Greenbelt Road. A panhandler approached a security officer for Beltway Plaza who was on patrol in the rear parking lot of the mall. When the officer rolled down the window to speak with him, a second person walked up and spit on the officer, who then exited his vehicle. A physical confrontation ensued. The man who had spit then produced a sharp object and cut the security officer on the head and face before fleeing on foot. The officer was transported to a local hospital for treatment of head lacerations.

Theft

January 7, 2:41 p.m., 9302 Edmonston Road. A man attempted to sell a video game player over social media and a potential buyer agreed to meet him to complete the transaction. When the seller handed the game player to the buyer, the buyer fled on foot.

January 7, 3:42 p.m., 9208 Springhill Drive. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

January 9, 4:49 p.m., 53 Crescent Road. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

January 10, 7821 Mandan Road. A package was taken from the lobby area of a condominium building.

January 12, 2:21 p.m., 200

block Lastner Lane. A package was taken from the front stoop of a residence.

January 11, 11:28 a.m., 8957 Edmonston Road. A wallet was taken from a purse at Urgent Care Medical Clinic.

Fraud

January 8, 6:30 p.m., 7455 Greenbelt Road. A woman accidentally left her credit card at Ross Dress for Less. It was used later to make unauthorized purchases.

Vehicle Crime

An attempt was made to steal a delivery van at 6002 Springhill Drive by tampering with the ignition.

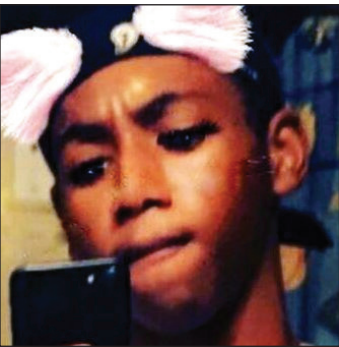
Rear tag Maryland 9DA1800 was taken from a vehicle at 207 Lakeside Drive.

Thefts occurred in multiple locations after vehicle windows were broken to gain access. A bag of tools was taken from 9310 Edmonston Road and power tools from 9119 Springhill Lane. A cell phone was taken from 9108 Edmonston Road and another vehicle in that location was broken into but nothing appeared to have been taken.

Windows were broken at 6002 Springhill Drive and 7825 Mandan Road.

Help Needed to Find Critical Missing Person

The Greenbelt Police Department is asking the public for assistance in locating critical missing person Ishan Javon Young (see photo), who was last seen January 5 in the 9100 block Springhill Lane. He is described as being Black, height 5' 8", 120 pounds, last seen wearing a black hooded sweatshirt, black pants and a black mask. He suffers from depression and is off his medication. Anyone with information is asked to contact the Greenbelt Police Department at 301-474-7200.



Missing person Ishan Javon Young



Greenbelt Command Staff Chief Richard Bowers (center), Captain Timothy White (hand on Corporal Peters' vehicle), Captain Gordon Pracht (taking a knee of respect) and Lieutenant Jermaine Gullidge gather to pay their final respects to Corporal Peters.

A vigil was held on Saturday, January 16 in honor of Officer Christine Peters who died on January 14.

- Photos by Beverly Palau



Greenbelt officers Pracht and Robinson protect their candle flames from the wind as they attend the vigil for Corporal Peters.

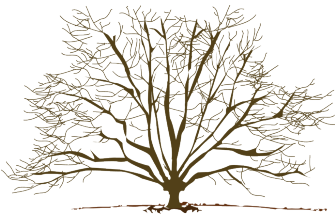
Funeral Procession

A funeral procession will be held for Corporal Peters on Friday, January 22, beginning at 1 p.m. The procession will pass the City Offices, turning right from Southway onto Crescent Road and continuing on Crescent Road to Kenilworth Ave. Members of the community wishing to pay their respects are asked to position themselves along the sides of Southway or Crescent Road. Please remember that mask and social distancing guidelines are still in effect.



City residents gather to honor Corporal Christine Peters.

The Department is offering a reward of up to \$1,000 for information leading to the arrest and conviction of a suspect in any of the unsolved crimes reported in the blotter.
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BOXED: \$10 column inch. Minimum 1.5 inches (\$15). Deadline 2 p.m. Monday for ads that need to be set up, including those needing clip art and/or borders. 6 p.m. Tuesday for camera-ready ads.

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DROP ads and payments in the mail slot in the exterior door of the News Review office. The door is located to the left of the main entrance on the east side of the Community Center (side closest to Roosevelt Center and the Municipal Building).

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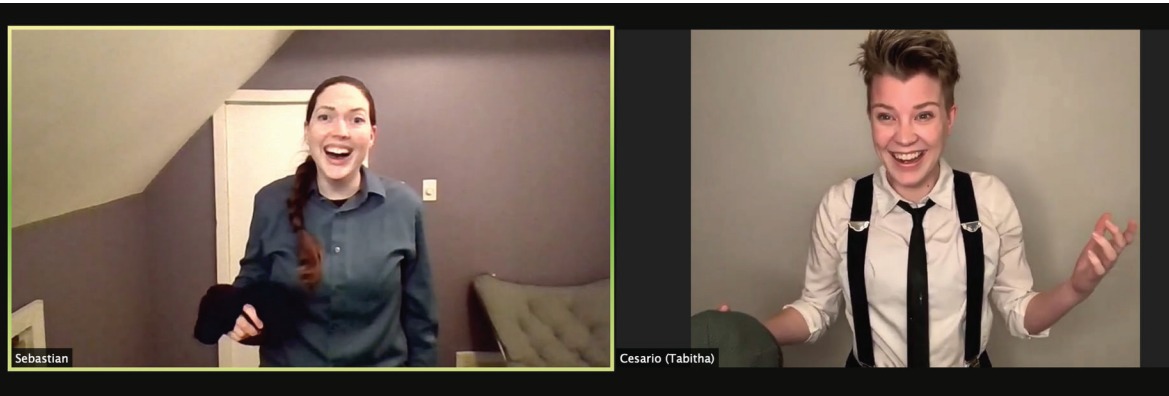
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A Review

Shakespeare’s Twelfth Night As Imagined in Covid Times

by Melissa Sites



Twelfth Night, or What You Will, is a great play to watch in early January because it was intended to be part of the festivities that close out the Twelve Days of Christmas. The festival of Twelfth Night was celebrated as an opportunity for servants to dress in clothes from a higher social station or to cross gender roles, themes that are explored in the play. Commissioned for the court of Queen Elizabeth in 1601, it’s one of Shakespeare’s lightest and most fun comedies.

For the Rude Mechanicals’ production of Twelfth Night at Greenbelt Arts Center, Director Tiffany Waters set the play to reflect current pandemic conditions. The characters are all socially distanced and put on masks when they intend to go outside. As in real life, the characters communicate through electronic devices. They even fight their duels using video game controllers.

Waters has delivered a galloping cut of the play that lasts around an hour and a half. Twelfth Night develops farcical misunderstandings around a pair of shipwrecked identical siblings, Viola (Tabitha Littlefield) and Sebastian (Allison Jones). Viola disguises herself as a boy, “Cesario”, and becomes entangled in a love triangle: Viola falls for Duke Orsino (KT Aylesworth), who wants to court Countess Olivia (Angela Trusty), while Olivia is smitten by “Cesario.” The comical subplot centers around Olivia’s steward, Malvolio (Tyler James Haggard), who is tricked by Olivia’s drunken uncle, Sir Toby Belch (Joshua Engel) and her fool, Feste (Allison McAlister) (along with other members of her household) into believing that Olivia loves him. Part of the comedy is watching Malvolio attempt to attract Olivia, a lady “above his station.”

Littlefield gives a winning and energetic performance as “Cesario,” developing a fun chemistry with Aylesworth across their Zoom windows. While the Duke still believes he is in love with Olivia, we can see right away that he should end up with Viola when all is said and done. Trusty plays a beautifully dignified Olivia, a calm center around which chaos swirls – even when she is smitten by “Cesario” and yet ends up marrying Sebastian.

For the bored members of Olivia’s household, tormenting the pretentious Malvolio gives them something to do besides drink and mourn with Olivia (who has lost family members). Haggard plays the somewhat pathetic Malvolio with comedic assurance as he gives horrible rat-like smiles and flaunts

Allison Jones, left, as Sebastian and Tabitha Littlefield as Viola/Cesario, play identical twins in Twelfth Night.

- Photos courtesy The Rude Mechanicals



Angela Trusty plays Countess Olivia.

his yellow stockings, believing that Olivia will admire them. McAlister gives a wonderfully solemn performance as Feste, whose witty repartee, like many of Shakespeare’s fools, is laced with melancholy.

There is an interesting tension around gender in the play. Partly, this is because the play is about one of Shakespeare’s many women characters who dress as men (and were initially portrayed on stage by men). In this production, the gender of characters was portrayed in keeping with the original text. But, at the same time, the gender expression of women and non-binary actors does inform the gender performance of the characters in

complicated ways. Jones’s long braid influences our understanding of Sebastian, just as Littlefield’s stylish haircut affects how we perceive Viola as Cesario. McAlister’s Feste and Aylesworth’s Duke use costumes to portray their characters as men, while leaving other gender cues less determined.

The play can be viewed on the Rude Mechanicals YouTube channel. Viewers are encouraged to give voluntary donations both to the Rude Mechanicals and to Greenbelt Arts Center to continue supporting live theater during social distancing. Visit greenbeltartscenter.org for more information.

City Notes

Flags were lowered to half-staff, honoring the service and sacrifice of Corporal Christine Peters, U.S. Capitol Police Officers Brian Sicknick and Howard Liebengood, and all Greenbelt and Capitol Police Officers.

Horticulture/Parks removed debris blocking the Buddy Attick Park spillway and repaired a vandalized playground hand sanitizer station. Building Maintenance painted Police Station offices. Refuse/Recycling collected 27.26 tons of refuse and 11.11 tons of recyclables. 25 volunteers attended Sustainability/Environmental’s MLK Day of Service.

Zoom monitors assisted Winter Recreation classes, emailing links and supporting instructors. At the Aquatic & Fitness Center, Public Works repaired women’s showers.

Arts and IT staff explored purchasing a portable router for Arts classes to improve connectivity. Therapeutic Recreation hosted a Golden Age meeting featuring city staff. Forty seniors received Food and Friendship frozen meals.

Eleanor Roosevelt High School’s awesome step team practiced on Buddy Attick Park’s basketball court. The Dog Park was under-attended, park rangers report, while many scowflaw pups enjoyed running loose in Northway Fields.



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Cape Cod SFH 3br 2 1/2ba home with rem. Kitchen, above-ground pool & wrap-around deck. Finished basement with family room and office space.

Townhome with 2 additions 2 bedroom GHI home on fenced corner lot. Large fenced yard, addition to back, extra storage in front. Central HVAC.

4 Bedroom 3 Level Townhome Master bedroom & full bath on main level. Opened remodeled kitchen, fireplace in lr. Backs to protected woodlands.

Townhome with addition 2 br townhome w/ front laundry/office addition. Opened kitchen, full bath, pantry. Fenced backyard with large deck.

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How Greenbelt Churches Are Now Coping with Covid

by Melissa Sites

During the pandemic, Greenbelt faith communities have creatively faced the challenge of worshipping together. Many have decided to meet virtually, yet some meet in person while complying with recommended precautions. All, however, have tried different methods to meet their members' needs for comfort, fellowship and spiritual sustenance.

Greenbelt Baptist

At Greenbelt Baptist Church (greenbeltbaptist.org), pastor Stephen Unthank said, "At first, everyone was terrified and didn't know what was going on. We see a premium on gathering together. We relinquished that conviction at first, then the world started opening back up again, and we were able to meet inside." For the Baptists, meeting online "resulted in a loss of fellowship and spiritual benefit. In order to maintain safety [we wanted to] keep meeting outside so we rented a tent." Since November, the coldest temperature for a service was in the mid-30s. If it drops below 37, they move inside, while complying with county guidelines. "We're still doing well and the church is thriving and growing," Unthank reported. "Meeting outside has been a unique bit of outreach. We've got neighbors hearing our worship, sermons, prayers. It's not uncommon for a neighbor to just stop and listen and join us. We have outside space heaters and fire pits to help keep people comfortable." Greenbelt Baptist provides recordings and sermons online as well.

St. Hugh's

St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church (sthughofgrenoble.org) has used a combination of both live-streaming and in-person services. Because of their large building, 100 people may still gather and the space is only filled to 25 percent capacity. Ushers ensure parishioners use hand sanitizer upon entry and are wearing a mask. To sanitize the church between services, Mary Ann Tretler reported that "St. Hugh's acquired a 'fogger machine' that mists anti-bacterial and anti-microbial (HOCI) solution six feet over the pews and entire church area. This system is also used on airplanes and buses." Parishioner Steven Stuart built a plexiglass divider to help safely distribute Communion. "To receive the host, parishioners put their hands under the plexiglass and Father Walter drops the host into their hands," Tretler reported. "Younger parishioners have really stepped up to help at church. The greater Greenbelt community has really been incredibly supportive of the St. Hugh's Food Pantry when the number of families in need of this service doubled."

Mowatt Memorial

At Mowatt Memorial United Methodist Church (MUMC) (mowattmemorial.org), Pastor Fay Lundin set up Zoom services "which are growing weekly," lay leader Ellen Noll reported. "We are excited that people from outside of Greenbelt can join us." Mowatt MUMC has conducted two in-person outdoor services requiring careful social distancing and masks, as well as two barbecues. According to Noll, "We delivered Thanksgiving

and Christmas dinners to our congregation. Together with three other churches, we held a virtual Christmas concert via Zoom [available on YouTube] with more than 100 people in attendance." Mowatt cooperates with College Park UMC, Faith Ministries and La Biblia to achieve financial stability. Mowatt will offer a to-go Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, as well as ashes for Ash Wednesday, February 17.

Community Church

At Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ (greenbeltcommunitychurch.org), Pastor Curt DeMars-Johnson reported that the worship team of three meets under the most stringent safety standards with open windows, social distancing of 15 feet, longer cables for equipment, high quality masks 100 percent of the time, and musicians participating from home while the music director plays the organ. "All of these efforts honor what our nation's top public health officials are sharing as research-based science. We've all realized how precious in-person social gatherings are. Meeting outdoors and sitting and talking is perfectly fine when the weather is warm enough." Amy Hansen commented, "I got to talk with a friend via Zoom while we were in the break-out rooms. This friend is deaf, so we haven't actually had a real conversation in years. But I was able to converse with him because Zoom has simultaneous subtitle options. We need that option in real life. It was a blessing." Karen Yoho added, "We even had our weekly Wednesday night Agape meals during Lent on Zoom. The normal version of the event was a light dinner of soup and fellowship. The virtual version was the same, with people even comparing what soup they were eating at home." Another highlight during the year was Wednesday evening "Zoomcerts" giving the community a chance to gather and celebrate with talented friends.

MCF Church

Pastor Jeff Warner at Maryland Christian Fellowship (MCF) Community Church (mcfcc.org) reported that MCF has grown during the pandemic. "Our college and postgrad team were literally hours away from a spring break mission trip to South Carolina when the national declaration of emergency was issued on Friday, March 13. While we cancelled our week-long mission trip, we immediately pivoted to a 10-month-and-counting mission experience. The pandemic probably helped people enlist to serve. They seriously considered the plight of others, not just themselves." Warner reported that MCF has been very active during the pandemic, and has grown numerically and financially. MCF has produced around 40 devotionals (written and video), while their College Ministry Team worked to enhance their social media presence and began a podcast. A Care Team formed to help members acclimate to the pandemic and restrictions. A 10-week summer course helped members develop a custom Personal Growth Plan. MCF raised over \$20,000 and distributed

food and meals, partnering with DC Vegan and TLC, an Eleanor Roosevelt High School Christian club.

St. John's Church

Greenbelt Episcopalians are served by St. John's Episcopal Church, Zion Parish (saintjohnsbeltsville.org). From their historic location in Beltsville, St. John's offers an array of remote access worship services. On Sundays at 10 a.m., St. John's broadcasts on Facebook Live and YouTube. On Wednesdays at noon, St. John's offers a prayer service by Zoom. Other weekly services include Thursday night Bible study, Tuesday morning prayer call and Saturday morning men's prayer call.

Holy Cross Church

Holy Cross Lutheran Church (myholycross.com) is open in accordance with county guidelines, including use of facemasks and social distancing. Two services, no longer than 45 minutes, are offered on Sunday morning at 9:30 and 11:30 a.m. Those who attend must register in advance, and the church is cleaned between services.

Mishkan Torah

Mishkan Torah Synagogue offers online services via Zoom at 8 p.m. Friday evenings and 10 a.m. Saturday mornings. For more information on these and other congregational activities visit mishkantorah.org.

The News Review welcomes further information about how religious organizations in Greenbelt have been coping during the coronavirus pandemic. Send your contributions to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



PHOTO BY ANNE GARDNER

A tent next to the Baptist Church is used for outdoor services during the pandemic.



PHOTO BY JOELLEN SARFF

Reverend Walter J. Tappe stands in front of the plexiglass shield that is used when parishioners receive communion at St. Hugh of Grenoble Catholic Church.



PHOTO COURTESY GREENBELT COMMUNITY CHURCH

Greenbelt Community Church, United Church of Christ pastor Curt DeMars-Johnson reaches his congregation remotely while practicing strict social distancing.

Send Us Your High Resolution Photos!

The News Review encourages readers to send in photos of Greenbelt landmarks, activities and the changing seasons. Photos should be at least 300 dpi, and must include the name of the photographer and a caption. The caption must name any identifiable people in the photo, as well as explain the picture.

If you are sending photos from your phone, please choose the option to send "actual size", or upload the photos to your computer first and then email the photos at full size. Send photos to editor@greenbeltnewsreview.com.



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